Compliance with BIS norms

†1225. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are production companies which are not complying with the standard of Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly of cold potable water product companies;

(c) whether Government have taken any action against these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is operating product certification scheme primarily on voluntary basis. So it is not essential for production companies to comply with the Indian Standards of BIS. However, 110 product including Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water have been brought under the mandatory certification by the Central Government through issuance of Quality Control Orders keeping in view the health and safety of the consumers, manufacturing of which require certification marks licence from BIS on mandatory basis. BIS has so far granted 1283 licences for Packaged Drinking Water and 7 licences for Packaged Natural Mineral Water.

(c) to (e) Action against the manufacturers of Packaged Drinking Water and Packaged Natural Mineral Water without ISI Mark is taken by the designated State Health Authorities under the provision of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Rules framed thereunder. However, if BIS receives information about such companies manufacturing the product without having appropriate and valid certification marks licence from it, the Appropriate Authority in the concerned State Government is informed for taking necessary enforcement action against the offenders. At the instance of BIS, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh launched an intensive drive wherein about 403 units have been prosecuted so far for sale of Packaged

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Drinking Water in violation of the said mandatory provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.

Import of Sugar

†1226. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar decided to be imported by Government;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the countries alongwith the details of the prices this import will be made;

(d) whether it is a fact that the imported sugar will be more costly than the sugar being sold in the country at present; and

(e) if so, the prices at which Government will make sugar available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Central Government does not undertake import of sugar.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government, *vide* Notification dated 23.06.2006 has decided to allow import of white sugar at zero percent customs duty without any quantitative restriction up to 30.9.2006. At present, the landed cost of imported sugar is higher than the domestic prices. The provision made for imports is only an enabling provision to facilitate imports of sugar if the domestic prices increase relative to international price.

Purchase of wet rice from Andhra Pradesh

1227. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has

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